

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-05 IO-10 MED-02 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 OES-03 USIA-06 PRS-01 CIAE-00 HEW-02 AID-05

FDRE-00 DODE-00 PC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 ARAE-00 /068 W

----- 104674

P 251600Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6592

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO PRIORITY

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FOR ARA/BR ALEX WATSON

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, BR

SUBJECT: MENINGITIS OUTBREAK - BRAZIL

REF: STATE 246846

1. SUBSEQUENT TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL AND TELCONS ON THE SUBJECT, AMCONSUL RIO HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT.

A. NUMBER AND EMOTIONAL INTENSITY OF INQUIRIES FROM AMERICAN CITIZENS CONCERNING AVAILABILITY OF ANTI-MENINGITIS VACCINE HAS REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY. THIS COULD IN PART BE ATTRIBUTED TO FULL SCALE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM RECENTLY LAUNCHED BY AMERICAN SCHOOL OF RIO. ADDITIONALLY, ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS INDICATING THAT GOB MASS IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM IS PROGRESSING AT IMPRESSIVE RATE.

B. DESPITE INCREASING NUMBERS OF PERSONS REPORTED BY PRESS AS BEING STRICKEN WITH MENINGITIS, CONSULATE GENERAL IS NOT AWARE OF A SINGLE CASE INVOLVING ANY MEMBER OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN RIO DE JANEIRO.

C. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES ARE QUOTED IN THE PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT MASS INOCULATIONS WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY AND THAT

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QUOTE EVERYONE WILL BE INOCULATED BEFORE CARNIVAL UNQUOTE.

D. BRITISH, FRENCH, AND GERMAN CONSULATES HAVE NOT RPT NOT ISSUED ANY PROHIBITIONS RE TRAVEL TO OR WITHIN BRAZIL. FRENCH STILL ARE MAKING TYPE A VACCINE AVAILABLE ON VOLUNTARY BASIS TO TRAVELERS DEPARTING PARIS FOR BRAZIL VIA AIR FRANCE.

E. ONLY THE FRENCH CONGEN ARRANGED A PROGRAM OF INOCULATIONS FOR CHILDREN AT THE FRENCH SCHOOL AND NATIONALS OF FRANCE RESIDEING IN THE RIO AREA.

2. AMCONSUL SAO PAULO WAS QUERIED ON THE REPORTED CASE OF MENINGITIS INVOLVING A TEENAGER WHO RECOVERED. SAO PAULO ADVISES IT KNOWS OF ONLY ONE CASE, WHICH WAS NOT MENINGOCOCCAL VARIETY, AND CONFIRMS THE FACT OF THE RECOVERY.

3. DR. MCCORMICK PAID AN UNANNOUNCED VISIT TO THE EMBASSY LATE LAST WEEK AND WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR. HE HAD NO DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN GUANABARA. (FYI: HE HAS BEEN WORKING IN THE BELO HORIZONTE AREA ON STUDIES INVOLVING THE QUOTE CARRIER STATE UNQUOTE. HE WILL RETURN SHORTLY TO ATLANTA AND THE FOLLOW-ON WORK WILL BE ASSUMED BY HIS CDC-COLLEAGUE, DR. JACOBSON).

4. AMCONSUL RIO IS WATCHING THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH HEALTH AUTHORITIES. IN THE LIGHT OF 0-4- 1 (A) AND (C) ABOVE, PARTICULARLY THE PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO BEGIN MASS INOCULATIONS IN JANUARY (WHEN, AMCONSUL RIO UNDDERSTANDS, VACCINE IN THE AMOUNT OF 3,000,000 INOCULATIONS WILL FIRST BE AVAILABLE), AMCONSUL RIO DOES NOT BELIEVE AN APPROACH ON BEHALF OF THE NON-OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY WOULD BE WELL-REGARDED OR IS AT ALL LIKELY TO PRODUCE RESULTS. THE EMBASSY CONCURS IN THIS ASSESSMENT. HEALTH AUTHORITIES WOULD BEGIN THE PROGRAM BEFORE JANUARY IF THE VACCINES WERE AVAILABLE.

5. REGARDING RESPONSES TO CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE, THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE CONFIRMATION IN PARA (1) OF REFTEL THAT SUCH COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITH POINTS CONTAINED IN BRASILIA 5625. WE CONCUR WITH THE DRAFT LETTER TO SEN. PELL BROUGHT BY ZIMMERMAN AND ON WHICH THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS WERE SOUGHT.

6. ACTION OFFICERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
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BRASILIA: DR. ROBERT W. KOOP, REGIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER
RALPH SCARRITT, ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR

SAO PAULO: ANTHONY G. GREEMAN, POLITICAL OFFICER

RIO DE JANEIRO: MANUEL SILBERSTEIN, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EPIDEMICS, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, VACCINES, MENINGITIS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740341-0740
From: BRASILIA
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30 JUN 2005

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